

DECLARATION TO FIGHT MALARIA IN AFRICA

IMMEDIATE ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT URGENT NEEDS IN ANGOLA, TANZANIA AND UGANDA

The Governments of the Republic of Angola, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda, and the United States of America, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), share a common commitment to reduce the crushing burden of malaria in Angola, Tanzania and Uganda.

The American Red Cross, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Exxon-Mobil Corporation, also are vitally involved in the fight against malaria in Angola, Tanzania and Uganda, and the Signatories of this Declaration commit to working with these and other partners in this effort.

Malaria is a major cause of illness and death in Angola, Tanzania and Uganda, as well as in much of Africa, especially among children under five years of age and pregnant women. Malaria is a major public health threat in both urban and rural areas.

The incidence of malaria can be reduced significantly by reaching vulnerable and high-risk populations with proven and effective prevention and treatment interventions, and by building on existing national malaria strategies and programs.

We are at a historic moment in the fight against malaria. Several highly effective interventions are available now to battle this disease, including insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs), indoor residual spraying (IRS), and newly developed drug combinations including active ingredients from wormwood plants, called artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT). Armed with these new tools, along with the new resources from President George W. Bush's Malaria Initiative, and the contributions of other donors, we can save tens of thousands of additional lives each year.

The United States' contribution to this effort in Angola, Tanzania and Uganda is a part of President Bush's recently announced five-year, \$1.2 billion Malaria Initiative. The goal of this Initiative is to complement existing investments rapidly to scale-up effective malaria prevention and treatment in at least 15 high-burden countries in sub-Saharan Africa in order to reduce malaria mortality in these countries by 50 percent. Angola, Tanzania and Uganda have been selected as the three countries expected to receive assistance during the first year of the President's Malaria Initiative.

The Signatories to this Declaration have identified several urgent priorities for action in each country for accelerating prevention efforts to save lives through the distribution of long-lasting ITNs, and conducting indoor residual spraying in targeted areas. Through these accelerated efforts, in collaboration with other international partners, by the end of 2006, Angola, Tanzania and Uganda will likely be among the first countries in Africa to achieve the Abuja prevention targets: 60 percent coverage of the population with effective preventive measures.

Further, the Signatories to this Declaration intend to work together to reach 85 percent coverage for prevention, effective treatment, and malaria in pregnancy interventions, as rapidly as possible.

Over the next 12 months, the Signatories intend to work together and with other partners to conduct the following initial activities, accelerating implementation of national plans that prioritize vulnerable groups.

Angola

In February 2001, the American Red Cross, WHO, UNICEF, the CDC, the United Nations Foundation, and other bilateral and multilateral donors launched the Measles Initiative. This Initiative represents a long-term commitment to control measles-related deaths in Africa. Significant progress has been made towards achieving this goal. More recently, Angola and several other African countries successfully integrated the distribution of free ITNs into their national measles vaccination campaigns.

Building on these experiences, the Signatories of this Declaration intend to work together with the partners above and the GFATM to distribute long-lasting ITNs in conjunction with a nationwide measles vaccination campaign in Angola scheduled for June 2006. The goal of this effort will be to provide a free ITN to every caretaker in need in Angola with a child under five years old who is at risk of malaria. In addition, three provinces of southern Angola plan to conduct IRS operations in October 2005 to protect households in epidemic-prone areas during the upcoming rainy season.

Tanzania

In collaboration with the Government of Tanzania, the National Malaria Control Program of Zanzibar and the GFATM, between December and March 2006, long lasting ITNs are to be distributed to all of the approximately 200,000 households on Zanzibar with young children under five years old.

Uganda

In collaboration with the Government of Uganda and the National Malaria Control Program, free ITNs are to be distributed to affected Ugandan families that are displaced from their homes due to the 18-year conflict in the northern districts of Uganda, as well as to households with young children in surrounding communities.

Conclusion

President George W. Bush's \$1.2 billion, five-year, Presidential Malaria Initiative is to begin with fiscal year 2006 in Angola, Tanzania and Uganda, and is to eventually expand to twelve additional countries. This initiative, in collaboration with other major international malaria efforts, provides a landmark opportunity to reduce dramatically the scourge of malaria in Africa.

Signed on this 14th day of September, 2005

For the Government of the Republic of Angola:

For the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania:

For the Government of the Republic of Uganda:

For the Government of the United States of America:
